

National avalanche bulletin no. 81

for Tuesday, 2 February 2010

issue date 1.2.2010, 18:30 hours

Treacherous avalanche situation, in particular in the north and Valais

Current conditions

Monday was mostly sunny, but in the afternoon it became cloudy from the northwest, and snow began to fall on the northern flank of the Alps. From Friday until Sunday, 50 to 80 cm of snow fell in the prealps. In the other regions north of the Rhone and Rhine, 30 to 50 cm of snow fell. Further towards the east and south, the amounts of fresh snow decreased steadily. On Monday, the midday temperature at 2000 m was about minus 14 degrees. The westerly wind was light to moderate.

The fresh snow is settling and bonding only slowly, including at lower altitudes. In the north, the most recent layer of the snowpack is loosely packed in most places. It is lying on top of snow drift accumulations that have formed in recent days, which are prone to triggering. In addition, the old snowpack is weakly bonded over a wide area. In the central part of the southern flank of the Alps, the bonding of the snowpack is more favourable.

Short-term development

On Monday night, 5 to 10 cm of snow will fall on the northern flank of the Alps, even at low altitudes. During the day, it will be quite sunny in the inneralpine regions and in the south in particular. Towards the evening, snow will begin to fall again in the north. Midday temperatures at 2000 m will be about minus 10 degrees. The generally westerly wind will be strong during the night, but ease temporarily during the day.

Snow drift accumulations will form an additional layer on a snowpack that is loosely bonded in some places.

Avalanche danger forecast for Tuesday

Jura; northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; regions north of the Anterior Rhine in Grisons; Prättigau:

Considerable avalanche danger (level 3)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found in all aspects. In the Jura region, the treacherous locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes above approximately 1400 m. In the prealps, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes above approximately 1600 m. In the other regions north of the Rhone and Rhine, excluding the Gotthard region, and in Prättigau, they are to be found, in particular, on steep slopes above approximately 1800 m. In southern Valais and the Gotthard region, the treacherous locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes above approximately 2200 m.

In all the forenamed areas subject to this danger level, avalanches can be triggered by a single person. Extensive experience in the assessment of avalanche danger is required by those engaging in backcountry touring and off-piste activities.

Ticino excluding the Gotthard region; remaining regions of Grisons:

Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)

The avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, on wind-loaded slopes of all aspects above approximately 2000 m. The fresh and older snow drift accumulations are prone to triggering in some places and can be released easily in isolated cases. The released amounts of snow are, however, mostly small. The snow drift accumulations are to be avoided if possible, by selecting routes carefully.

Trend for Wednesday and Thursday

On Wednesday, snow will fall over a wide area, but in the north in particular. The weather on Thursday will be quite sunny everywhere. Temperatures will rise. The avalanche danger will increase again on Wednesday before decreasing slowly thereafter.

National avalanche bulletin as an MMS (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.

LAWINE overview of the keywords
LAWCHD national avalanche bulletin (german)

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Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

LAWZCH Central Switzerland
LAWBVS Lower Valais / VD
LAWOVS Upper Valais
LAWNGR North and Central Grisons
LAWSGR South Grisons
LAWBEO Bernese Oberland
LAWEAN Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

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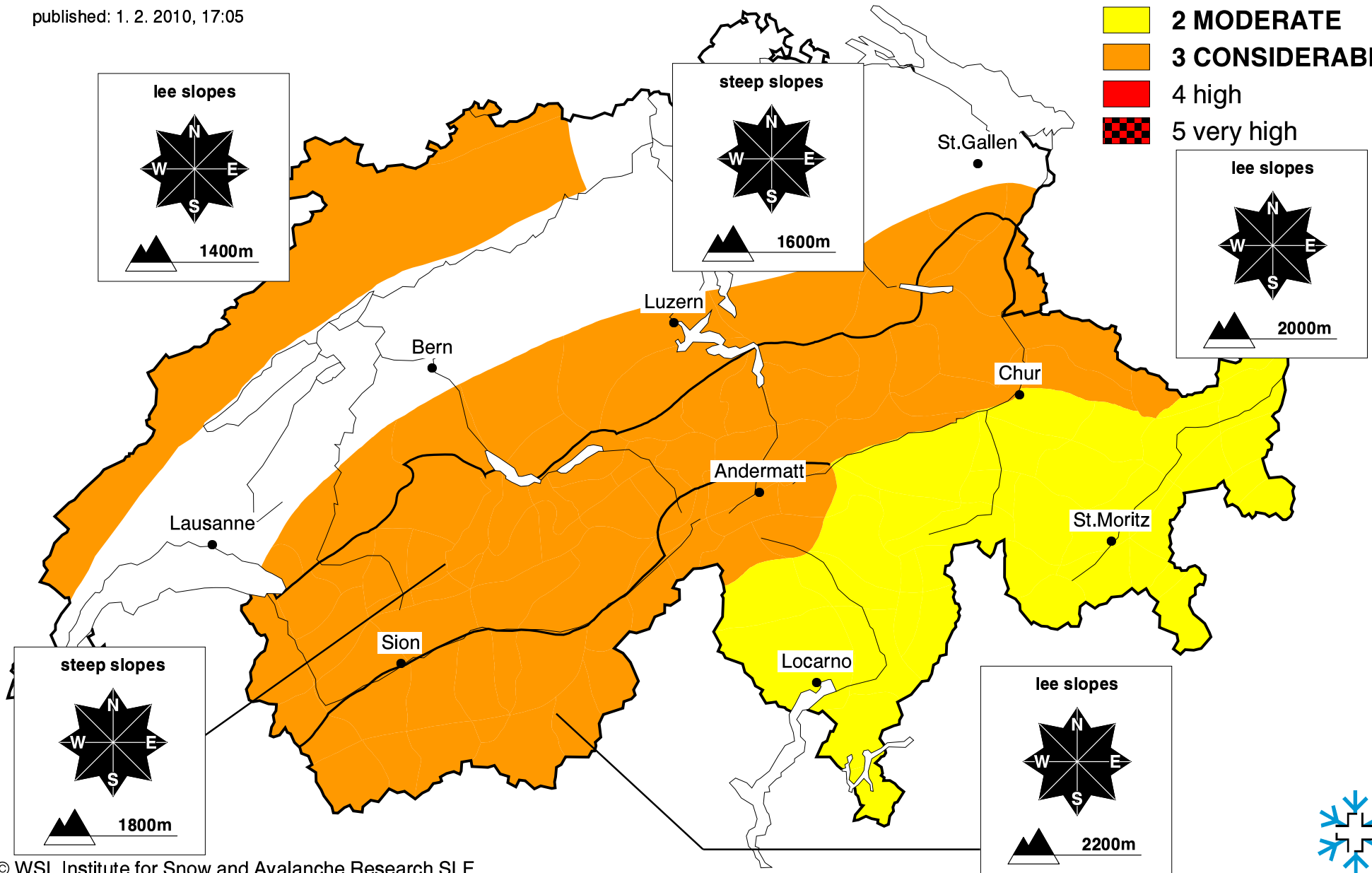
Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 2. February 2010

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high








Avalanche danger forecast

for Tuesday, 2. February 2010

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Danger level

-  1 low
-  **2 MODERATE**
-  **3 CONSIDERABLE**
-  4 high
-  5 very high

